



Sept. 15, 1956.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U. S.

1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

## PARTY PLATFORMS SUMMARIZED

The Democratic and Republican platforms are presented in this issue of THE NATIONAL VOTER in about one-sixth their complete length. Actual wording has been retained insofar as possible. Because of space limitations, many subjects are omitted entirely. Full texts may be obtained from Republican National Committee, 1625 Eye Street, N.W., and Democratic National Committee, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, both in Washington, D. C.



### FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

**Democrats:** Strengthen and expand role of the United Nations. Oppose admission of Communist China into U.N. Continue support of Nationalist China. Pursue goal of enforced disarmament.

Stand for strong defense forces. Pledge better living conditions and fringe benefits for members of the armed forces.

Support efforts of underdeveloped countries, on a cooperative basis, to organize their resources and increase their productivity. Strengthen economic and technical assistance programs, using multilateral approach where possible.

Reappraise foreign aid program to determine standards for granting further aid, keeping in mind our objective of securing world peace. Oppose colonialism and Communist imperialism.

Continue support of Hull reciprocal trade program; correct inequities to agriculture, industry and labor in present conduct of program.

Support principal of free access

to Suez Canal under suitable international auspices.

Urge Israel and the Arab states to settle their differences by peaceful means. Redress imbalance of arms in area by selling or supplying defensive weapons to Israel.

Fortify defenses of the Americas, intensify cooperation with neighboring republics to help strengthen their economies, improve educational opportunities, combat disease.

Revise immigration and nationality laws, with proper safeguards against subversive elements.

**Republicans:** Continue to support vigorously the United Nations, to cooperate with sister states of Americas. Continue support of collective security system begun in 1947 and steadily developed on a bipartisan basis. Oppose seating of Communist China in the U.N.

Where needed, help friendly countries maintain such local forces and economic strength as provide bulwark against Communists aggression or subversion.

Continue efforts with friends and allies to assist underdeveloped areas of the free world in efforts to attain greater freedom, independence and self-determination, and raise their standards of living.

Support a policy of impartial friendship for peoples of Arab states and Israel; independence of Israel against aggression.

Foster abroad and practice at home policies to encourage productivity and profitable trade. Reduce barriers to trade and flow of capital on gradual, selective and reciprocal basis with full recognition of necessity to safeguard domestic enterprises, agriculture and labor against unfair import competition.

Reaffirm principles of freedom for all peoples and look forward

to eventual end of colonialism.

Maintain that no treaty or international agreement can deprive any of our citizens of constitutional rights. See to it that no treaty or international agreement attempts to deprive our citizens of rights guaranteed by federal Constitution.

Support President's proposal for mutual arms reduction and "open sky" inspection. Support U. S. participation in an International Fund for Economic Development financed from savings brought by true disarmament.

Maintain and improve effective strength and state of readiness of armed forces. Continue to provide incentives to attract men and women to military service.

Support immigration policy in

On the Corner—Watching All the Girls Go By



—Fiachetti, NEA Service

keeping with American traditions in providing a haven for oppressed peoples. Support needed modifications in existing law and extension of 1953 Refugee Relief Act.

## LABOR



**Democrats:** Repeal the Taft-Hartley Labor Act. Raise minimum wage scale to \$1.25 an hour. Extend coverage of Fair Labor Standards Act.

Advocate equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex. Improve employment opportunities for physically handicapped. Protect and improve welfare of migratory workers. Promote industry and jobs in depressed areas.

**Republicans:** Continue assistance to workers with special employment problems. Improve federal-state employment service and unemployment insurance system. Protect by law assets of employee welfare and benefit plans. Revise and improve Taft-Hartley Act.

Assure equal pay for equal work regardless of sex. Strengthen 8-hour laws. Extend protection of federal minimum wage laws. Fight to eliminate discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry or sex.



## AGRICULTURE

**Democrats:** Continue improvements in soil bank program, conserve soil, water and forest resources. Maintain adequate reserves of agricultural commodities for national security. Create international food reserve.

Restore supports on basic commodities to 90 per cent of parity. Regain full 100 per cent of parity for farmers by commodity loans, direct purchases, direct payments to producers, marketing agreements and orders, production adjustments. Extend price supports to feed grains, other nonbasic storable, and to perishables.

Inaugurate food stamp or other supplemental program. Expand school lunch and special milk program. Increase food distribution to institutions. Expand agricultural research program. Increase farm

credit at lower rates. Return administration of farm programs to farmer-elected committeemen.

Insure low-cost electric and telephone service. Encourage farm cooperatives. Expand farm forestry marketing research.

**Republicans:** Establish effective research program to promote new uses for farm crops. Improve marketing. Develop voluntary programs. Provide price supports as in Agricultural Act of 1954. Continue commodity loan and marketing agreement programs. Develop more accurate measurement of farm parity.

Safeguard soil and water resources. Encourage voluntary federal crop insurance. Bring emergency relief to rural disaster areas. Expand school milk program. Provide assistance to ease temporary surpluses of perishables. Support farmer-owned and -operated cooperatives. Encourage and assist private and cooperative sources of credit. Expand rural electrification. Work for improved farm prices and farm income.



## SMALL BUSINESS

**Democrats:** Strictly enforce laws to prevent monopolies. Close loopholes in laws prohibiting price discrimination. Adjust federal taxation to encourage business expansion. Provide long- and short-term credit at reasonable rates. Curb corporate mergers contributing to growth of economic concentration. Award substantially higher proportion of government contracts to independent small business and far larger percentages of military procurement by competitive bids.

**Republicans:** Favor temporary loans at reasonable interest rates to those unable to obtain credit through commercial channels. Propose technical research in problems of small business; closer federal scrutiny of mergers with significant or potential monopolistic connotations; procedure changes in antitrust laws to facilitate enforcement; simplification of wage reporting by employers for Social Security and income tax withholding; continuance of vigorous S.E.C. policies.

## CIVIL RIGHTS



**Democrats:** Eliminate illegal discriminations of all kinds in relation to voting, engaging in gainful occupations, security of the person, and education in all publicly supported institutions. Reject all proposals for use of force to interfere with the orderly implementation of the Supreme Court decision relating to segregation.

**Republicans:** Support enactment of civil rights program presented by President to 84th Congress. Pledge continued progress in this field. Accept the Supreme Court decision that racial discrimination in publicly supported schools must be progressively eliminated.

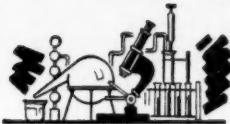


## GENERAL WELFARE

**Democrats:** Increase Social Security benefits. Strengthen unemployment insurance. Improve public assistance program. Expand opportunities for citizens 65 or over. Initiate federal aid programs for medical education. Continue medical research. Expand housing program. Provide federal financing to assist states and local communities to build schools. Pledge better opportunities for children of migratory workers, training programs for teachers of exceptional children. Expand student, teacher and cultural exchange with other nations. Expand program of child welfare grants to states. Expand rehabilitation program for physically handicapped.

**Republicans:** Renew efforts to enact program to encourage state and local efforts to build more classrooms. Press actions to help insure every child the educational opportunity to advance to greatest capacity. Demand federal aid to help build facilities to train more physicians and scientists. Seek extension and perfection of sound Social Security system. Pledge close cooperation with state, local and private agencies to reduce highway fatalities.

## ATOMIC ENERGY



**Democrats:** Expand nuclear development under nonpartisan administration. Accelerate domestic civilian atomic power program by construction of demonstration reactors. Give reality to atoms-for-peace program. Increase production of fissionable material stockpile for peacetime commitments. Conduct survey of radiation hazards from bomb tests and reactor operations. Develop balanced and flexible stockpile of nuclear weapons for defense.

**Republicans:** Pledge vigorous development of atomic energy program for defense and to deter aggression, for world peace, for basic science and its application to industry, agriculture and the healing arts. Generously assist International Atomic Energy Agency.



## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Democrats:** Stimulate soil conservation. Conserve and expand recreational facilities.

Advocate federally financed forestation, upstream erosion control and flood control of our public range, timber lands and small drainage basins.

Pledge multiple-purpose river basin development, conservation of water in the public interest. Oppose fragmentation by single-purpose projects of comprehensive drainage development.

Expand program to prevent water pollution. Accelerate development of program to obtain fresh-water supply from salt water.

Pledge aggressive programs to provide low-cost energy, including research for development of synthetic liquid fuel from coal, shale and agricultural products. Encourage exploration and development of mineral resources.

Preserve and strengthen public power competitive yardstick in power developments. Increase production of hydro-electric power, and of steam generation for TVA.

Enforce anti-monopoly and public preference laws.

**Republicans:** Recognize recreation as important public use of national

forests and public lands. Recommend continuing study and evaluation of returning unused or inadequately used public lands.

Continue to improve timber conservation practices, recreational facilities, grazing management and watershed protection of national forests and public domains.

Foster long-term policy for development and prudent use of mineral resources and to assure access to necessary sources abroad. Favor repletion allowances, expansion of government minerals exploration, mineral stockpiling.

Support preference to public bodies and cooperatives in marketing of federally produced power.

Press for cooperative solution of all problems of water supply and distribution, reclamation, pollution, flood control and saline water conversion.

Pledge legislative support to arid and semi-arid states in preserving integrity of water laws and customs. Expand planning of water resource development programs.



## FINANCIAL POLICY

**Democrats:** Increase personal tax exemption of \$600 to a minimum of \$800. Review debt management to reduce interest rates. Vigorously administer and revise laws to provide investor safeguards for securities traded in over-the-counter market, for foreign securities sold here and against proxy abuses.

**Republicans:** Pledge further reductions in federal spending as recommended in Hoover Commission Report; continued balancing of the budget; gradual reduction of national debt. Work toward further reductions in taxes with particular consideration for middle-income families and small businesses; study of additional ways to correct inequities in effect of various taxes.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Democrats:** Protect and extend merit system in Civil Service. Propose loyalty program which will protect nation against subversion and employee against unjust and un-American treatment. Improve postal system. Reverse trend toward "secrecy in government," return to freest flow of information

possible. Improve congressional procedures to prevent a minority from blocking a vote.

Favor home rule for the District of Columbia. Pledge statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. Favor increased self-government for the Virgin Islands, Guam and other possessions. Pledge full citizenship for American Indians with federal assistance in developing their cultural and natural resources. Recommend submission to Congress of Equal Rights Amendment.

**Republicans:** Oppose unwarranted growth of centralized federal power. Clarify federal relationships and strengthen state and local government. Dispense with federal activities competing with private enterprise and take "other sound measures to reduce cost of government." Continue modernization of postal service, with users of mails paying a greater share of the costs. Promote Civil Service merit system. Fight for advances for government employees, reappreciation and adjustment of benefits for retired personnel.

Pledge immediate statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. Favor self-government for the District of Columbia. Favor constructive execution of federal trusteeship over American Indians, expansion of their self-government in local and tribal affairs. Recommend submission to Congress of a constitutional amendment providing equal rights for men and women.

## SUEZ CRISIS

In 1854 and 1856 the ruler of Egypt granted concessions to Ferdinand de Lesseps to form a company to cut a 103-mile canal through the Isthmus of Suez. The company was to "build, operate and maintain" the canal; stock was to be available to people in all countries. The concessions were to last 99 years from the date the canal was opened to navigation (1869), and the company was then to be turned over to Egypt.

Efforts to guarantee unrestricted use of the canal were contained in the concessions. Such use was further guaranteed by the Constantinople Convention of 1888, which stated "...the canal shall always be free and open, in time of war as in time of peace, to every vessel of commerce or of war, without distinction of flag." Signatories to the 1888 treaty were the United Kingdom, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Russia,

Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Egypt. Under the treaty Egypt may make certain exceptions to assure her own defense and maintain law and order, but may not interfere with free use of the canal.

In 1948, referring to her right to make exceptions, Egypt prohibited Israeli ships from using the canal. Non-Israeli ships could go to or from Israel but could carry no "war materials" as cargo; petroleum products were included in this category.

Israel appealed to the United Nations. In 1951 the Security Council called on Egypt to end these restrictions. Egypt has ignored this resolution. In 1954 Russia blocked a second resolution.

On July 26, 1956, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company. Though under international law Egypt has the right to nationalize the company, her manner in doing so and her past discrimination against Israeli shipping have aroused fears as to whether she will further disregard the 1888 treaty, spread nationalization of business, even attempt a Pan-Arab empire.

Sharp protest was registered first by Britain and then France. On July 28 Britain froze the sterling assets of the canal company held in the British Isles. Movement of British and French troops to the area and statements by both countries that they have no intention of leaving the Suez Canal to the whims of Gamal Nasser have brought close the use of force.

The following week a hurried meeting took place in London between Secretary of State Dulles and British and French Secretaries. They called a 24-nation conference for August 16. Egypt and Greece declined to attend; 22 nations met. The result was an 18-nation-endorsed proposal for an international board to operate the canal, with Egypt participating in the benefits. The board would report to the U.N. and be open to U.N. review.

India and Russia did not endorse the plan. India proposed, instead, a review of the 1888 treaty and a board of user interests to advise and consult with Egypt but not to control or operate the canal. The 1888 treaty already contains a similar provision.

After meeting for a week the conference named a five-country committee to discuss international control with President Nasser. The

*From the*  
**PRESIDENT'S  
DESK**



In the April 15 issue of **THE NATIONAL VOTER**, announcement was made of a study of the League of Women Voters to be undertaken by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan. As the months have passed, this study has gotten under way, and during September and October major portions of the data are being collected.

A scientific sample of Leagues and members has been drawn, and about 3,000 members in slightly over 100 Leagues will be asked to participate in the research by filling out a questionnaire sent to members from the Survey Research Center. At the same time, members of the Survey Research Center

countries on the committee were Australia, Ethiopia, Iran, Sweden, and the United States.

President Nasser met with the group but did not deviate from his position that he cannot and will not accept or agree to international control of the canal. Britain and France have declared they will settle for nothing less. The United States has stated that it will exert all its influence "to prevent the use of force by Britain and France."

President Nasser has indicated in the past an interest in expanding the treaty of 1888 to include all nations using the canal, registration of the treaty with the U.N., establishment of an international advisory body to aid Egyptian authorities, separate treaties with all users of the canal, or any solution that does not "violate" Egyptian sovereignty.

The British and French threat of force has proved unpopular among nations. The prospect of taking the Suez Canal crisis to the U.N. has been steadily improving.

In the confusion and tension of the past six to eight weeks, words written almost 100 years ago sum up the underlying issue as well now as they did then. Speaking of respective rights to use of an "international" waterway, in 1858 U. S. Secretary of State Cass said:

"While the rights of sovereignty of the states occupying this region . . . should always be respected . . . sovereignty has its duties as well as its rights, and none of these local governments, even if administered with more regard to the just demands of other nations than they have been, would be permitted, in a spirit of . . . isolation, to close the gates of intercourse on the great highways of the world, and justify the act by the pretension that these avenues of trade and travel belong to them and that they choose to shut them, or, what is almost equivalent, to encumber them with such unjust regulations as would prevent their general use."

field staff will interview 200 members of 41 Leagues—33 of the above Leagues, and eight others—in members' homes.

The Presidents of the Leagues which will form the basis of the study have been notified by the national office of the League.

There will be five major steps involved in the survey:

- 1) A small "pre-test" of local Leagues, which has already been conducted;
- 2) Questioning of many women, both League and non-League;
- 3) Evaluation of the data collected;
- 4) Communication and interpretation of the conclusions;
- 5) Development of a manual for use by the League and other voluntary organizations in conducting self-surveys.

There will be no information made available which can be identified with a particular person, League, or community. Since the purpose of the survey is to examine the League of Women Voters as a whole, the data must be treated in this manner. The amount of work required of the local Leagues to insure success will not be burdensome, and it is hoped that every person contacted will be willing to participate.

This project provides us with a splendid opportunity to learn more about what makes our organization, as a large-scale voluntary association, tick. Striving as we always are to be efficient and effective in our work, we constantly look for answers to our problems. An analysis of League processes, such as that proposed, will be of great help in making us a more effective organization, and we can all look forward to what the results of the study can tell us.

There is another reason for our hearty approval of this project. For some time the Survey Research Center has been making studies of organizations of various kinds in order to understand better how they work. All these studies in human relations contribute to a body of knowledge about the way in which the various units within society operate. From such work emerge principles needed to assist in solving the recurring problems facing a democratic society both in its internal functioning and in the field of international relations. Such a project ties in very well with the aims of the League. We feel fortunate to be able to contribute to it; it deserves our fullest cooperation.

*Lucy Marion Lee*

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MRS. JOHN G. LEE, President  
DOROTHY FELKER GIRTON, Editor  
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